

## Supplementary data

Figure S1. Short FTZ fragments containing the LXXLL motif are sufficient for binding to the FTZ-F1 LBD. (A) A sequence alignment of FTZ proteins from *D. melanogaster* (Dm FTZ), *D. hydei* (Dh FTZ), and *T. castaneum* (Tc FTZ) containing the LXXLL motif (boxed) is shown. Numbering is based on the *D. melanogaster* FTZ. The secondary structure prediction is shown beneath the alignment, where 'h' indicates helix and 'e' indicates  $\beta$ -strand. (B) A schematic of FTZ fragments used in the far-western experiment. The black box indicates the LXXLL motif and the red box indicates the homeodomain. (C) A far-western of bacterially expressed GST and FTZ fragments probed with radiolabeled FTZ-F1 LBD. Lanes 1–5 correspond to the far-western and lanes 6–10 correspond to the Coomassie-stained gel showing the amounts of protein loaded. Lanes 1, 6: GST; lanes 2, 7: GST-FTZ 88–119; lanes 3, 8: GST-FTZ 88–136; lanes 4, 9: FTZ 1–170; lanes 5, 10: FTZ.

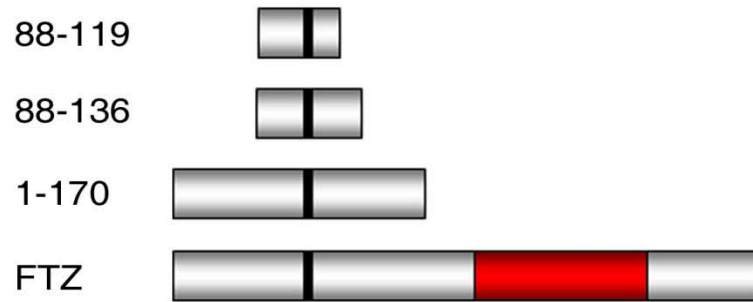
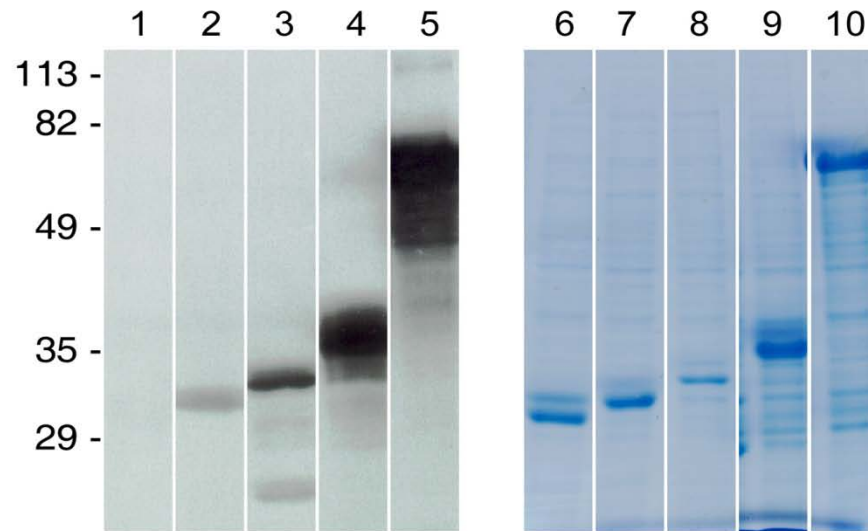
Figure S2. Quantification of FTZ<sup>PEP</sup> binding to FTZ-F1 LBD. (A) SPR sensorgrams of FTZ<sup>PEP</sup> binding to immobilized FTZ-F1 LBD. FTZ<sup>PEP</sup> concentrations injected over the sensor chip were 12.5  $\mu$ M (trace a), 25  $\mu$ M (trace b), 50  $\mu$ M (trace c), 100  $\mu$ M (trace d), and 200  $\mu$ M (trace e). (B) Raw data from isothermal titration calorimetry (upper panel) and enthalpy changes per mole plotted as a function of the molar ratio of FTZ<sup>PEP</sup> to FTZ-F1 LBD (lower panel). The solid line represents the best-fit curve. FTZ<sup>PEP</sup> (0.83 mM) was injected into a 1.4-mL cell containing 0.03 mM FTZ-F1 LBD at 25°C. The values of the best-fitting parameters are 0.944 for N,  $6.60 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$  for K ( $1.52 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$  for  $K_d$ ) and -7.568 kcal/mol for  $\Delta H$ .

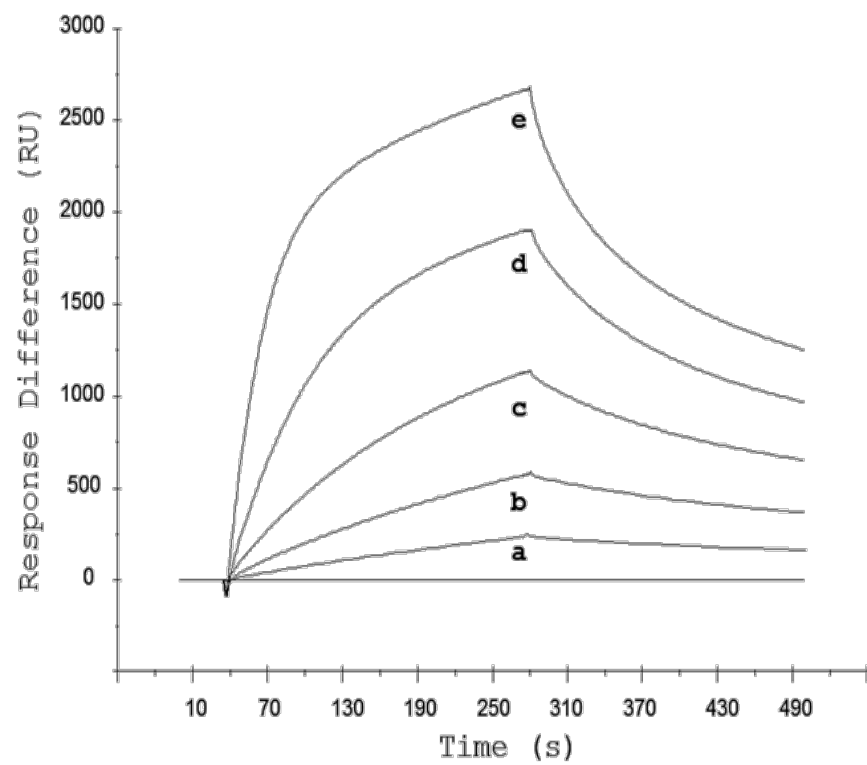
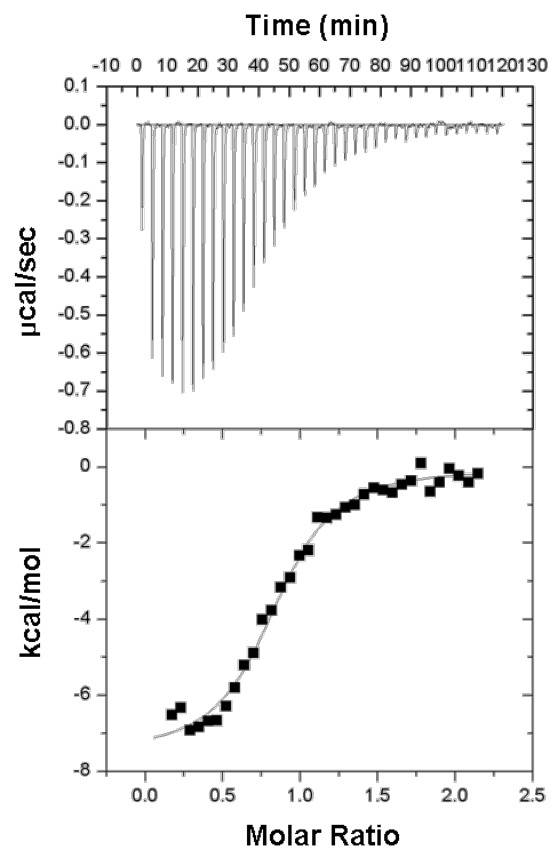
Figure S3. Circular dichroism spectra of FTZ-F1 LBD and mutant proteins. Far-UV CD spectra of FTZ-F1 LBD wild type and mutants were measured in 20 mM Tris-HCl pH7.5 at approximately 0.1–0.5 mg/ml. Average values are expressed as millidegree at various wavelengths, high values were found at high protein concentrations. CD spectra suggest that all mutants have  $\alpha$ -helical structures, which is consistent with X-ray crystal structure of the wild type FTZ-F1 LBD.

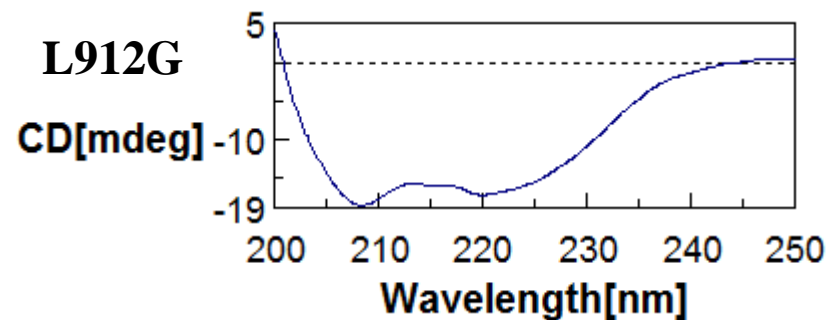
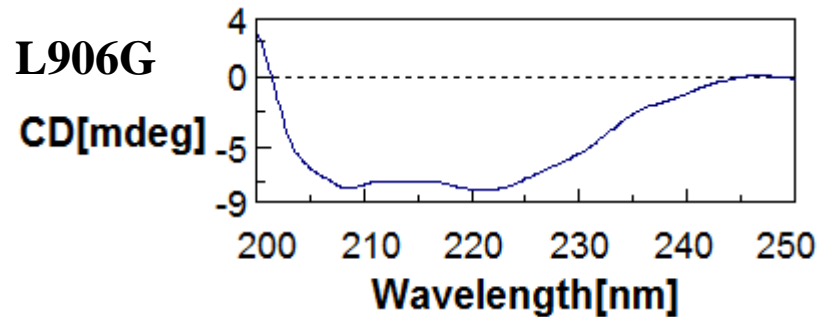
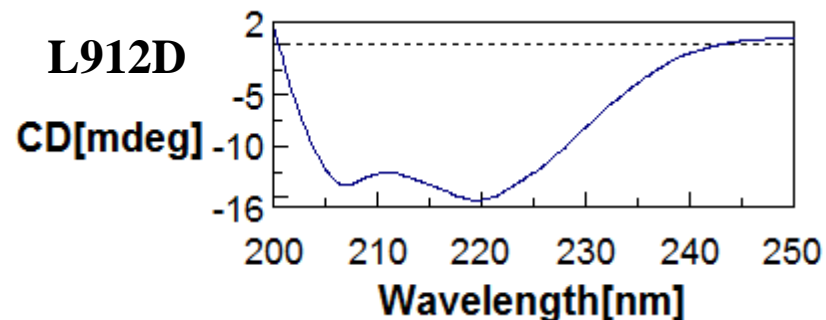
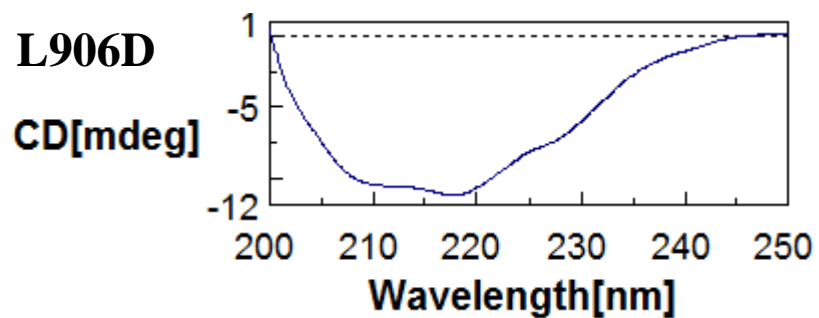
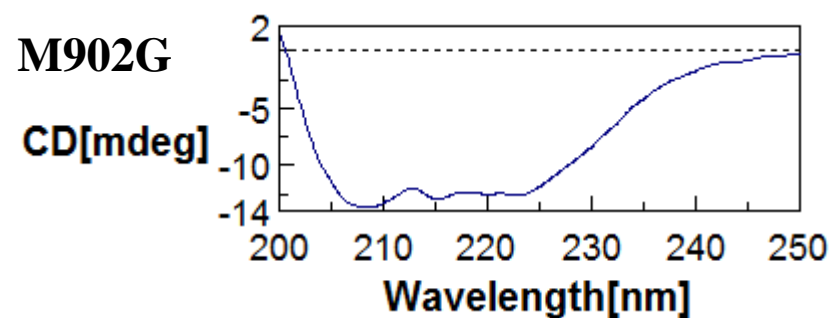
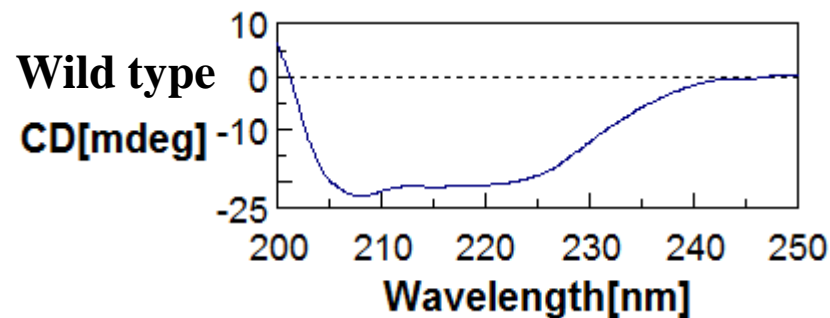
Figure S4. Amino acid sequence alignment and secondary structures of the FTZ-F1, LRH-1, and SF-1 LBD. Asterisk (\*) indicates residues between  $\beta$ 1 and  $\beta$ 2 which are not conserved in the LRH-1, and SF-1 LBDs. Secondary structures and primary sequences are well conserved except residues in the loop between  $\beta$  sheet.

**A**

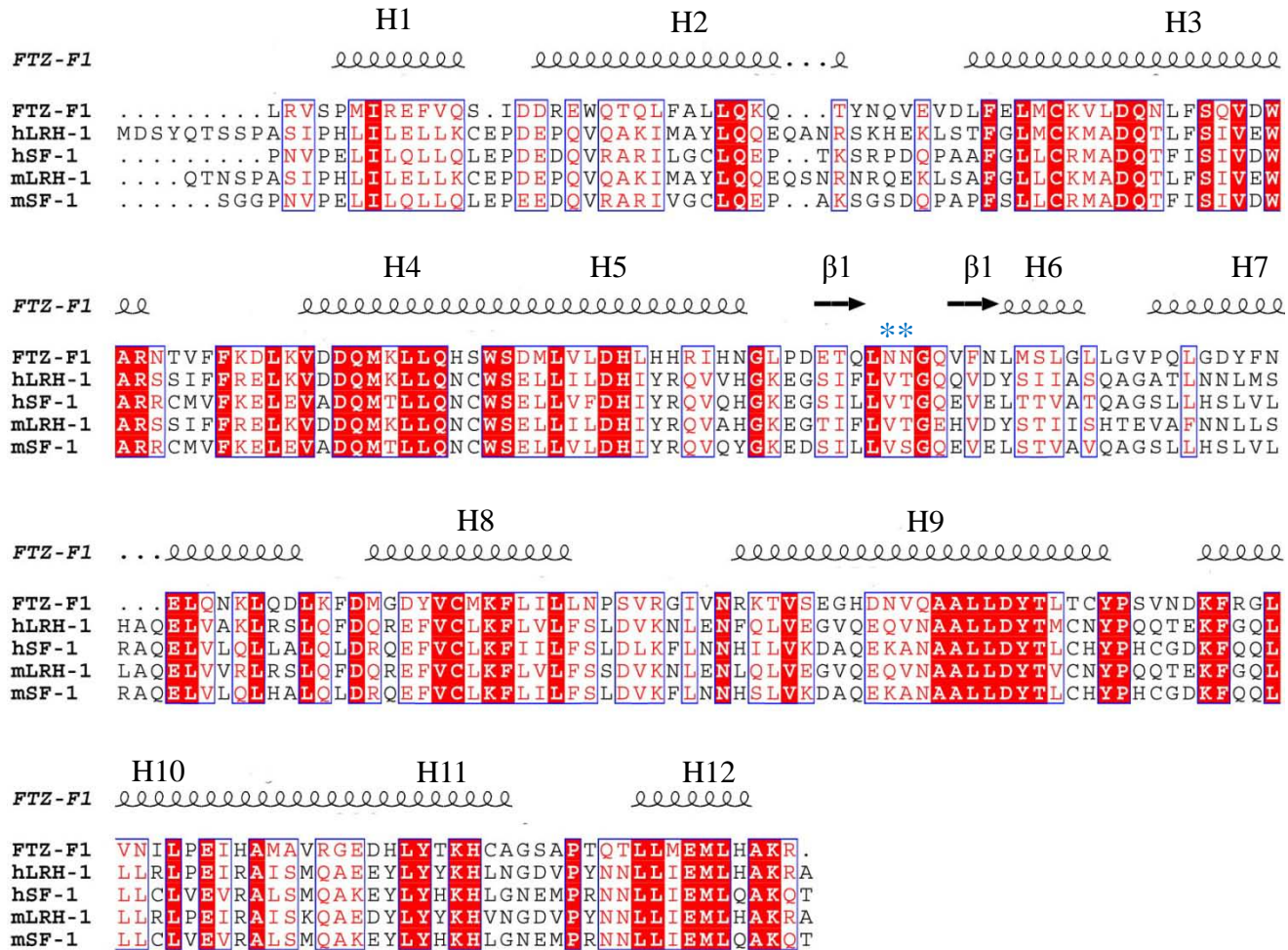
	90	100	110	120	130
Dm Ftz	K R K A E D D A A S I I A A V E E R P S T	L R A L L L	T N P V K K L K Y T P D Y F Y T T V E Q V K K		
Dh Ftz	K R K A E E S A A D I I A A V E E R P S T	L R A L L L	T N P V K K L K Y T P D Y F Y T T I E H V K K		
Tc Ftz	E T S L Q L D E N K L D K K N D D S P - A	L R A L L L	T R P Q A K K T P P N Q Y E N F Q Q Y D N N		
Prediction	h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h	h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h h	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e		

**B****C****Fig. S1**

**A****B****Fig. S2**



**Fig. S3**



**Fig. S4**